



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

JON S. CORZINE
Governor

MARK N. MAURIELLO
Acting Commissioner

MAR 16 2009

Walter Mugdan, Director
Emergency and Remedial Response Division
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region II
290 Broadway
New York, New York 10007-1866

Re: Emergency Removal Action Request
Alfred Heller Heat Treating Co.

Dear Mr. Mugdan:

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) submits the Alfred Heller Heat Treating Co. in Clifton City, Passaic County for emergency removal action consideration under the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response and Cleanup Liability Act (CERCLA).

On March 11, 2009, Clifton Fire Department representatives contacted DEP's Emergency Management Element and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Response Prevention Branch to report that the Alfred Heller Heat Treating Co. facility, located at 5 Wellington Street, had been abandoned. DEP staff responded the same day to conduct a site inspection at the facility with Clifton Fire Department and EPA representatives. At that time, there were no spills or releases to the environment observed, but the facility was full of various chemicals in vats, drums, totes and carboys, among other containers. During the inspection, it was noted that the site appeared fenced and secure.

A person identifying himself as a representative for Alfred Heller Heat Treating Co.'s creditors was on site during the visit and stated the facility shut down in January and they are preparing to auction off any materials possible.

According to the company's Web site, Mr. Alfred Heller founded the company in 1932 for the purpose of providing heat-treating services to the metal working industry in the New York/New Jersey metropolitan area. In 1962, the company moved to its present location in Clifton, according to the Web site, which also states that the company's metal heat treating and finishing operations transform metal parts and provide them with certain metallurgical qualities, such as specific hardness, ductility, or spring capabilities.

SDMS Document



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Additional information about the company and its staff are available at www.alfredheller.com.

DEP specifically recommends that EPA evaluate a removal action to address the various chemicals in vats, drums, totes and carboys, among other containers. Removal of the materials will provide greater protection to residents of the neighborhood surrounding the facility.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss these issues in further detail, please contact me at 609-633-2168, or Fred Mumford, Superfund coordinator in the Publicly Funded Remediation Element, at (609) 984-3074.

Sincerely,

 3/16/09

Robert Van Fossen
Assistant Director
Emergency Management Element
Site Remediation Program

C: Eric Mosher, Branch Chief, Response Prevention Branch, USEPA Region II
Dave Sweeny, Chief, Bureau of Emergency Response, DEP
Al Greco, City Manager, Clifton City

Attachment (map)